

PRESS ALERT

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For Immediate Release
Barron
January 27, 2014
4 p.m. Update
2491

Contact: Karlene

or Natalie Dale
404.635.2490 or

Winter Weather Highway Conditions...

Driving To Become Even More Treacherous As Nightfall & Brutal Cold Approaches

Atlanta – Dangerous driving conditions exist throughout most of north and central Georgia. Department of Transportation crews are active throughout affected areas but Georgia DOT is urging motorists to stay off of roads and highways as driving already is dangerous and will become extraordinarily moreso after nightfall.

“We are doing all we can to maintain mobility on literally hundreds of highways,” spokeswoman Natalie Dale said. “That effort is complicated in some areas by the heavy traffic of individuals trying to get home and the very large number of roadways experiencing issues. As people get home from work, we ask them to stay there and not drive again unless necessitated by an emergency.” The Department advises the public to refrain from all but such absolutely necessary travel until midday Wednesday at the earliest. If motorists must travel, please be patient with conditions and with one another and be extremely cautious. Slow down considerably; allow extra distance between yourself and other vehicles, maintain a steady speed; avoid lane changing and sudden acceleration or braking; and never pass a Georgia DOT, contractor or local government truck treating the road. Also, avoid any driving after dark as black ice will form on streets, roads and highways and is virtually impossible to detect in the dark.

Northwest Georgia is experiencing largely a light to moderate snow event as is much of northern Metro Atlanta. Metro Southside and areas south of that are expected to experience significant icing this evening and overnight into Wednesday morning. Icing could extend as far south as Albany and Savannah.

The only roads officially closed at this time are the customary winter weather closings of State Route 180 Spur in Towns County and a portion of State Route 348 in While County.

The only road currently classified as temporarily unpassable is Interstate Highway 575 northbound in Cherokee County at Cumming Highway; also, only one right lane of eastbound State Route 92 at Londonderry Road is open. Crews are working both locations.

Ice is reported on numerous roads and highways, however.

Metro Atlanta icing issues were earlier reported on:

- Interstate Highway 285 interchange at State Route 417 in DeKalb County;

- State Route 13 in DeKalb;
- State Route 3 in Fulton County;
- State Route 41 in Cobb County; and
- Interstate Highways 85 and 20 in Douglas County

In central and west central Georgia; GA DOT crews treated previous icing conditions on the following roadways:

- Interstate Highway 85 and I-185 in Troup and Harris counties;
- Interstate Highway 85 in Coweta County;
- Interstate Highway 75 and State Route 42 in Henry County;
- State Route 92 in Spalding County;
- State Routes 100 and 120 in Haralson County; and
- State Routes 1, 22 and 219 in Troup.

Northwest Georgia Department crews worked or are working to clear snow or ice on:

- Interstate Highway 75 in Bartow and Dade counties;
- Interstate Highway 59 in Dade;
- Interstate Highway 575 State Route 140 in Cherokee County;
- State Routes 156 and 53 in Gordon County;
- State Route 92 in Paulding County;
- U.S. 411 and State Routes 1 and 101 in Floyd County;
- State Route 1 in Chattooga County;
- State Routes 136, 157, 58, 299 and 301 in Dade;
- State Routes 3, 20, and 113 in Bartow; and
- State Route 157 in Walker County.

In east central Georgia, crews treated:

- Interstate Highway 20 from Rockdale County to Taliaferro County;
- All I-20 elevated structures;
- The I-20/State Route 22 interchange in Taliaferro; and
- State Route 77 in Greene County.

In northeast Georgia, these roads were or are being treated:

- State Route 400 ramps to State Route 141 in Forsyth County;
- State Routes 9 and 60 in Lumpkin County;
- State Routes 17 and 105 in Habersham County;
- State Route 115 in White County;
- Multiple roads in Union and Towns counties.

The Department will issue periodic media advisories as warranted; in addition, representatives will be available at the locations and via the phone numbers listed below throughout the weather event:

The Special Operations Center (SOC): Located at the Transportation Management Center (TMC) will activate at Noon, Tuesday. Media should call Karlene Barron or Natalie Dale at 404.635.2490 and 2491 for updates.

(Note - This is the Department's statewide command center and the clearinghouse for real-time conditions; it is your best source for current status of roadways.)

Cheshire Bridge Road (Metro Atlanta) Maintenance Facility: Contact Mark McKinnon at 404.326.6672.

District One (Northeast Georgia) Gainesville Headquarters: Contact Teri Pope at 404.274.6436.

District Two (East Central Georgia) Tennille Headquarters: Contact Cissy McNure at 478.232.3331

District Three (West Central Georgia) Thomaston Headquarters: Contact Kimberly Larson at 706.741.3439.

District Four (South and Southwest Georgia) Tifton Headquarters: Contact Nita Birmingham 229.326.5435.

District Five (Southeast and Coastal Georgia) Savannah Area Office: Contact Jill Nagel at 912.424.6643.

District Six (Northwest Georgia) Cartersville Headquarters: Contact Mohamed Arafa at 770.359.9523.

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